



Water Supply

Water is used on the golf course and maintenance facility for irrigation, chemical mixing and washing down of machinery. In clubhouses and pro-shops water is used for more domestic purposes in catering, showers, toilets and sinks along with central heating systems.

Traditionally, mains water from the public supply is used. For more information about mains supply new connections, water charges and information about the quality of your water supply see Scottish Water Business Stream at <http://www.business-stream.co.uk/water-supply-services>
Water charges and potential reductions can be negotiated directly with Scottish Water Business Stream.

Business Stream is the main supplier in Scotland however other water suppliers in Scotland that have received licences from the [Water Industry Commissioner](#).

The use and storage of alternative water sources e.g. surface/ground water abstraction or treated waste water and rainwater will reduce the volume of mains water used and often reduce costs both financially and environmentally.

Water Abstraction

Many clubs are using groundwater and surface water on the course to supplement the mains water supply. If the quality of the water abstracted is suitable it can be used for irrigation, washdown water and some domestic functions such as toilet flushing etc. Quality standards for drinking water are highly regulated so a mains water supply will still be needed but quantities required can be vastly reduced. Any water abstractions must be fully investigated to ensure there is no negative impact to the groundwater / surface waters and must be registered with SEPA under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/abstractions/>

Groundwater supply via borehole

A borehole is a technical term for a deep well. If your club is built on suitable ground with adequate water table levels, it may be possible to sink a borehole and pump out and store ground water. For further information see [Applicants guide to water supply boreholes – SEPA 2010](#)

Surface water, pond and river abstraction

It is often possible to abstract water from lochs, ponds and rivers. Waterbodies must be fully assessed to ensure quantity and quality of water is suitable, and that the abstraction will not cause a negative impact. It is recommended that the club get detailed advice from a qualified hydrologist/land drainage specialist to assess the practicality of abstracting water. Directories of such professionals can be found in the British Hydrological Society www.hydrology.org.uk or the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) www.ciwem.org.

Also look at the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) website for golf industry contractors / suppliers www.bigga.org.uk/direct

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater runoff collected from the clubhouse and maintenance facility roofs is another alternative water source. Systems can be anything from small water butts installed onto existing downpipes to more specialist collection and storage systems that then pump the water to where it is required.

The UK Rainwater Management Association (UKRMA) <http://www.ukrma.org/> gives information on the technology, British Standards, qualified consultants and contractors.

Grey water recycling

Grey water is the water used in hand basins, showers and baths, whilst black water is the term to describe water from the toilet, kitchen sink and dishwasher. Neither type of water is potable and black water needs to be professionally treated in order to be reused. Grey water can, however, be easily treated allowing a reduction in the amount of potable mains water used.

Grey water recycling involves collecting the water used in hand basins, showers and baths, processing the water in order to ensure a reasonable level of cleanliness and re-circulating the water for use in flushing toilets. With Grey water recycling the water can often also be used in washing machines and for outside taps where it is not necessary to use drinking quality water.

Retro-fitting a greywater recycling systems can be quite costly and it is therefore difficult to recoup costs in a reasonable length of time. This technology is therefore currently used predominantly in new developments where negligible cost is involved as new plumbing is already being installed. There are recycling systems available for machinery washdown water which will also reduce the need for mains water also.

Information in this article is intended to provide only a general outline of the subjects covered. It should neither be regarded as comprehensive nor sufficient for making decisions in place of professional advice for the specific needs of your club. Scottish Golf accepts no responsibility for any loss arising from any action taken or not taken by anyone using this guidance.

September 2016